



Weekly Update – February 1, 2015

Items of Interest

February is African Heritage Month – Celebrating a Continuum of Excellence... Past, Present and “As a nation with such diversity, all histories need to be known and all voices need to be expressed.” Rosemary Sadlier, Ontario Black History Society

The African Heritage Month Committee invites the whole TDSB community to join us in our month-long celebration of the experiences, contributions and achievements of African Canadians with a variety of system-wide initiatives and events across TDSB throughout February 2015. For more information, please click on [African Heritage Month at the TDSB](#).

February is Kindergarten Registration Month

Starting school is an exciting time for your child. Our schools provide a rich learning environment for all children to learn and grow. In the Kindergarten program, your child will develop their skills and abilities through inquiry and intentional play-based learning that includes math, science and literacy. Teachers and early childhood educators plan learning experiences where children are actively engaged in learning and thinking creatively.

Junior Kindergarten – If your child will be four by December 31, 2015, he or she can start Junior Kindergarten in September 2015.

Senior Kindergarten – If your child will be five by December 31, 2015, he or she can start Senior Kindergarten in September 2015.

For information on how to register, click on <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/earlyyears/KindergartenMonth.aspx>

Wilson Report Update (with information from the TDSB Website)

Minister's Directive on Capital Planning

On 15 January 2015 the Minister of Education provided a list of 13 directives to the Toronto District School Board, including a directive on capital planning (Directive #9). At the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting on 28 January 2015, staff provided the Board of Trustees with the following information in response to the Minister's Directive.

Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy

This Strategy is a work plan for ensuring all students have equal access to inspiring programs across the city. By identifying a series of studies that we will do each year, the strategy will give us a better understanding of program and space needs across the system. Most importantly, it is a 10 year vision for education in Toronto that includes a process for engaging the community and bringing annual plans to the Board each year that reflect the evolving needs of our city.

Elementary and Secondary Utilization Data

This data is one piece of the puzzle that staff use as part of the process for the Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy. The TDSB has not announced any school closures as part of this report. The list provides information on enrolment and building capacity. Should any schools be considered for closure in the upcoming years, parents would be informed of the process and public consultations would be launched.

[Elementary Utilization Data](#)

[Secondary Utilization Data](#)



The capacity in a school is a measure of instructional space for students. It is focussed on instructional rooms that can hold classes of students. Hallways, stairwells, foyers, offices, first aid rooms, kitchens, mechanical rooms, caretaking rooms are not loaded in determining utilization rates (do not contribute to the capacity of the school). Classrooms are “loaded”. Space for exclusive use childcare, parent and family literacy centres, and Sections 23 programs are removed from the total capacity for a school. In other words, this space is not included when the Ministry looks at how much space is under-utilized in a school. Conversely, adult ESL, literacy and basic skills programs for adults, and space used for central administration in schools is NOT deducted from a school's total capacity, so the ministry considers it unused space.

PLEASE NOTE – To be clear – the TDSB has not announced any school closures as part of releasing the Reports on Utilization. The list simply identifies schools that have lower student enrolment. JR Wilcox was included on the list of “under-utilized” schools according to the Ministry of Education’s definition... JR Wilcox serves its community... and as neighbourhood schools around it are full, it is not threatened for closure or consolidation.

TDSB Properties Sold and Closed Between 1998 – 2014

Since amalgamation, the Toronto District School Board has sold of a total of 82 properties. Of these, 16 properties were sold by the TDSB before the formation of the Toronto Lands Corporation. The Toronto Lands Corporation has disposed of 66 properties. Approximately 60% of the properties have been purchased by public sector organizations. 30 buildings were closed as operating schools between 1998 – 2013. Currently, 19 of these buildings have been sold, 8 are being leased out by the Toronto Lands Corporation, and 3 are being used for TDSB purposes. The TDSB knows that a certain number of schools could be closed and that is part of our responsible, comprehensive 10-year plan that lays out a number of studies that will be conducted over the upcoming years.

Capital Funding

Unlike other Ontario school boards, the TDSB is forced to address infrastructure renewal and enrolment growth pressures by selling or leasing existing property to generate revenue. Growth pressures in other Ontario boards are fully funded by the Province and Education Development Charges (EDCs). From 2008-2013, the TDSB has received capital funding from the province, but over 5 years the TDSB has received just 5% of provincial capital funding when over 12 percent of the province’s student population attends a TDSB school. In addition to capital grants, other school boards have access to EDCs from new residential developments in their cities to purchase school sites and build schools for new communities. The TDSB does not have access to these same funds. Based on the current Toronto Catholic Board EDC rate, projected growth would generate nearly \$300million of much needed revenue to meet the capital needs of TDSB school communities. City of Toronto planning information indicates that there are applications for an additional 275,000 new residential units across the city. TDSB schools are in need to critical repair and the only revenue sources the Province supports is selling or leasing school properties.

At the last Ward Forum Several questions about the board’s Capital Budget were raised and Associate Director Carla Kisko offered to come back to meet with the community on Capital issues. The date has been set for March 9th. Detailed Financial Facts and Capital Facts documents referred to can be found at <http://tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs.aspx>.

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin



PLEASE NOTE – In my update of May 18, 2014, I included the Ward 11 Description of Proposed Project or Study 2014-15. Click on [May 18, 2014](#). As soon as the information is shared publicly, I will share the Ward specific plans. I am very sorry that one of my colleagues shared the Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy 2014-2023 to the Toronto Star before the Board did. As part of the Ministry Directive we will be releasing the first 3 years (Wednesday) – and in that document is the Pupil Accommodation Review to address low enrolment, underutilization and secondary program viability at Vaughan Road CI. It is slated for 2015-16. Forest Hill CI is mentioned along with other neighbouring schools as students would be possibly redirected and catchment areas potentially changed depending on the decision coming out of the Pupil Accommodation Review... there is no threat to the viability of FHCI... It continues to be a valued and well-respected secondary school – excellent programs and staff... I am sorry for the angst this may cause.

Yonge-Eglinton Local Feasibility Study

I meet with Planning and Program staff on a regular basis. I should have updated data to report out soon. Staff have decided to proceed with a Yonge-Eglinton Local Feasibility (LFT) process this spring to study and develop solutions to address a number of accommodation issues being experienced at area schools. I am glad they recognize that we are short pupil places for students in this area. Part of the scope of the LFT will be to identify where the best location to construct those spaces is. To this end we will explore boundary changes, grade changes, program relocations and future capital priority projects as part of this process. Public consultation, likely through a Program Area Review (PART), will follow the Local Feasibility Team study and will provide the communities to review the proposed solutions, develop new ideas and to offer your input. Until then, I am happy to answer any and all questions.

E-Learning

Registration opens on March 23rd at 7:30am

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/elearning/e-summerschool.aspx>

2015 Session Dates –

Session 1 (June/July) June 29 to July 27; **Session 2 (July/August)** July 28 to August 25

Please Note: Planned courses will be offered dependent on sufficient student registration and employment of qualified staff.

Focus On Youth Toronto - Summer 2015

Once again this summer, the Toronto District School Board in partnership with the Ministry of Education will be operating Focus on Youth Toronto (FOYT). Now in its ninth year, FOYT brings high quality summer programming to the children and youth of Toronto's urban inner-city areas by offering organized community based-programs the free use of school space, and by creating employment and leadership opportunities for the youth of these communities. From July 6 to August 21, FOYT provides community agencies with free school space to run affordable summer programs for children and youth. The Focus on Youth office does extensive outreach to connect with eligible agencies. To find out more, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/focusonyouth. The deadline for agencies to apply is March 1, 2015.



In partnership with community agencies, FOYT hires students to work for 7 weeks, from July 6 to August 21, at the rate of \$11.00 per hour. The types of employment opportunities vary, and are intended to match students' interests and strengths. To be hired by FOYT, students must be 16 years of age by July 1, 2015 and be registered in a TDSB school or program. A police reference check is required for those 18 years of age and older. To apply, interested students should complete the on-line application at www.tdsb.on.ca/focusonyouth. The application deadline for students is March 22, 2015.

Key Dates Worth Repeating

▪ **Humewood – Supporting Your Child Series - 15 Cherrywood Ave**

The Humewood community has invited parents in WR08 to join them for a series of information Meetings:

- Youth & Digital Citizenship, February 26, 7:00pm presented by Crime Stoppers (No registration required)
- Kids Have Stress Too! March 26, 6:00PM, The Psychology Foundation of Canada Presented by Toronto Public Health, Register: <http://goo.gl/forms/7XNOZkELLv>
- Talking With Your Teen, April 23, 6:00pm, presented by Toronto Public Health, Register: <http://goo.gl/forms/nV26n95oc5>

Child minding available upon request. Please email Barbara.Sandler@tdsb.on.ca to register for child minding.

- **Councillor Joe Mihevc's Community Meeting on the [City of Toronto's 2015 Budget](#)**
Monday, February 2nd, 2015, 6:30pm - 8:30pm at Artscape Wychwood Barns, 601 Christie Street.
- **Councillor Josh Matlow's Community Town Hall on the 2015 City of Toronto Budget**
Tuesday, March 3rd at 7pm, North Toronto Memorial Community Centre (200 Eglinton Avenue West).
- **Optional Attendance Application for Elementary School Program**
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Policies,ProceduresForms/Detail.aspx?docId=177>
Applications must be received by Friday, 13 February 2015.
- **Spectrum Alternative School Open House 2015**
Wednesday, January 28th, 2015 – 3 sessions: 6:00, 6:45 and 7:30 at Davisville Public School/
Spectrum Alternative School. Applications will be available online after the open house. Visit our school website for more information: <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/spectrum>
- **Parent and Community Engagement Office Workshops**
Workshops on “Running an Effective School Council and Secondary Transitions”. For workshop dates and locations visit: [Workshops](#).
- **School Council Appreciation & Information Evening – February 26, 6pm**
Event Details: **Montecassino Hotel**, 3710 Chesswood Drive, Toronto, ON M3J 2W4
Shuttle bus is available from Downsview Subway Station, every 20 minutes from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm.
Registration will be closed on Friday, February 13, 2015.
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/Conferences.aspx>
- **Parent Seminars on Children's Mental Health Topics**
Three upcoming parent seminars on children's mental health topics being offered in Toronto by the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre (at the Young People's Theatre) on February 11th and March 25th. For more information, click on <http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/Home/Our-Institute/ParentSeminarSeries.aspx>
- **2014-15 Premier's Awards for Accepting Schools Nominations are now open!**
Download a [nomination form](#) and start your submission today. Deadline: February 20, 2015 by 5 p.m.



- **2015-2016 Minister's Student Advisory Council Applications are open for students in grades 7-12.** Deadline is February 28, 2015 by 5 p.m. EST
- **The OTIP Teaching Awards**
Deadline for submitting nominations is March 31, 2015. <http://en.teachingawards.ca/>

Hold the Dates for Future Ward Forums

- **March 3 – Social Media and a Hands-On Tutorial on Twitter!**
- **March 9 – Special Ward Forum on Capital Issues**
- **May 21 – Topic TBC**

2014-2015 School Year Calendar

TDSB's school year calendars are on Google Calendar (add to yours!).

Elementary: <http://t.co/SRsxJzPYgL> + Secondary: <http://t.co/s1sWVP0naB>

Board-wide PA Day	February 13, 2015
Family Day	February 16, 2015
March Break	March 16 to 20, 2015
Good Friday	April 3, 2015
Easter Monday	April 6, 2015
Victoria Day	May 18, 2015
Elementary School PA Day	June 5, 2015
Secondary School PA Day	June 24*, 25, 2015
Board-wide PA Day	June 26, 2015

* High School Semester Change: The first day of second semester is 30 January 2015. The seven days noted for secondary school include a PA day only for semestered schools on 29 January 2015 and a PA Day for full-year schools only on 24 June 2015.

Before scheduling events, please check the TDSB Days of Significance Calendar
[2014 - 2015 Days of Significance](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these weekly e-mails, please let me know at shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca